

15. *Rinecera mirabilis*.

Taken in the Ellice group upon *Abutilon*.

16. *Harpagoneura complexa*, n. sp.

This insect I found at rest upon the trunk of a cocoanut-tree; it was the only specimen I saw.

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All the above insects were taken during the daytime, and I do not think many more species are wanting to complete the list of Lepidoptera of the Gilbert group. The islands are nothing but coral-reefs, in no part rising more than 12 feet above the sea; and the list of trees and plants collected by me, which I believe to be complete, only extends to twenty-two species. I should like to have spent a night or two on shore after moths; but I thought it prudent to return to the ship each evening. One day while at Apamama, after returning on board, I found on my coat a small Geometer larva; but there is no perfect insect belonging to this group in my collection.

Gravesend,  
April 10, 1885.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*A Monograph of the British Phytophagous Hymenoptera* (Tenthredo, Sirex, and Cynips, Linné). By PETER CAMERON. Vol. II. 8vo. London: Ray Society. 1885.

THE volume issued by the Ray Society to their subscribers for the year 1884, which has lately been produced, is the second volume of Mr. Cameron's 'Monograph of British Phytophagous Hymenoptera,' the appearance of the first instalment of which we noticed in December 1882. In this volume the author continues the description of the species of Sawflies, and we learn from his preface that the subject is to occupy two more, the third to "contain the remainder of the Tenthredinidæ, the Siricidæ, and the introductory part of the Cynipidæ, including a discussion on the phenomena relating to the structure and growth of galls in general," while the fourth will be occupied by the systematic description of the Cynipidæ.

In this second volume Mr. Cameron deals only with the species

of a single tribe or subfamily of Sawflies, namely the Nematina, including the great genus *Nematus* and its allies. This group, although not so extensive as that of the Tenthredina, which were treated of in the first volume, is the one which presents the greatest difficulties for the descriptive entomologist, as it includes the great genus *Nematus*, of which Mr. Cameron here records 107 British species, many of which are closely allied—in fact so closely that, as in the case of the Lepidoptera, it seems to be necessary in some cases to rear the species, the larvæ presenting decided differences when those between the perfect insects are obscure. The whole number of British species of the group is only 132.

In an Appendix Mr. Cameron indicates certain species to be added to genera treated of in his first volume, and also offers some important remarks upon the subject of parthenogenesis as occurring among the Sawflies, as to which he says, “there seems to be no doubt that the phenomenon is quite common.”

In the matter of illustrations we are even more liberally dealt with now than in the preceding volume; we have here no fewer than twenty-seven plates, and of these thirteen furnish us with coloured representations of the insects and their larvæ, the remainder, with one exception, being occupied by outline figures of the saws of different species. The adoption of colour in the representations of the perfect Sawflies will be an immense advantage to students, and the figures, drawn by Mr. Purkiss and Mr. Edgar Smith, are worthy of all praise. The only difficulty is to know where the plates are to come from to illustrate two more volumes: the figures in those now published carry us quite to the end of the Securiferous Hymenoptera, so that the available material for the illustration of the remainder of the work consists almost wholly of the figures relating to the Cynipidæ. It is to be regretted that the plates could not have been kept throughout to the same volumes which contain the text they illustrate. This, however, is but a minor detail, and one which detracts but little from the value of Mr. Cameron's contributions to the natural history of the Tenthredinidæ, a work the completion of which will be most welcome. British entomologists, using the term in the widest sense, are deeply indebted to the Ray Society for providing them with such books as Mr. Buckton's on the Aphides, Mr. Michael's on the Oribatidæ, and the present work.

*Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Association for the Advancement of Literature and Science.* No. IX. 1883-84. Edited by J. G. GOODCHILD. Svo. Carlisle: G. and T. Coward. 1885.

THE ninth volume of this valuable local publication, which has just reached us, contains perhaps rather fewer papers relating to natural-history subjects than its predecessor, which we noticed a twelvemonth ago; but its contents will be of much interest to residents in West-